

S-111
Edge Hill (site)
Princess Anne vicinity
private

c. 1820, c. 1860

"Edge Hill," was the country residence of John W. Crisfield, one of the most important residents of Somerset County during the mid nineteenth century. As a prominent attorney, Crisfield helped to establish the railroad connection with Somer's Cove, later renamed Crisfield in the attorney's honor. When John W. Crisfield purchased the river property, a single-story, brick-nogged house evidently stood on the site. During Crisfield's ownership the house was enlarged in two ways. The front side hall/parlor section was attached, and the second floor of the service wing was raised. The mid nineteenth-century sections were fitted with modest Victorian woodwork.

John W. Crisfield and his wife, Mary, acquired a part of "Hayward's Purchase" situated along a bend in the Manokin River through a chancery case in Somerset Court dated November of 1839 (GH 436). A covenant in the settlement stated that William Roach agreed to sell to John W. Crisfield the farm where Charles Harding now lives. After Crisfield purchased the river property he reworked the existing brick-nogged frame house. After John W. Crisfield's bankruptcy and eventual death, Mary W. Crisfield continued to occupy "Edge Hill" until the early twentieth century. In 1927, the Crisfield daughters sold twelve and a half acres and the house to Ralph and Martha Roush (GWL 94/357), who in turn sold the property to the First Baptist Church in 1960 (201/291). "Edge Hill" was burned in 1984.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-111

Magi No. 2001116504

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John W. Crisfield House - "Edge Hill"

and/or common "Edge Hill"

2. Location

street & number N side of Deal Island Road not for publication

city, town Princess Anne ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: None

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD. 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-111

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☒ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date of move

Burned 1984

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John W. Crisfield house, also known as "Edge Hill," stands on the north side of the Manokin River immediately west of US Route 13 and Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. An entrance lane intersects the Deal Island Road just west of the Manokin River bridge (formerly called the Red Bridge).

The mid nineteenth-century two-story hall/parlor frame house faces south with the primary gable running east/west. A continuous brick foundation supports the weatherboarded house, which is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. Extending to the rear (north) is a service wing that consists of two periods of construction, one which predates the main house. The first floor of the rear wing is a brick nogged frame house that dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, while the second floor was added during the third quarter of the century. A small gable front frame dairy with brick nogging stands northwest of the kitchen wing.

The south facade of the main house is divided into two bays with a four-panel entrance door occupying the east bay. The door is topped by a three-light transom and flanked by a pair of four-light sidelights. Six over six sash windows light the first and second floors. A turn of the century porch wraps around the south and east sides of the house.

The east gable end of the front block has a single six over six sash on each floor, and the gable ends are flush. A small brick exterior stack rises against the wall. Attached to the west gable end is a shorter two-story frame addition of twentieth-century construction. An interior chimney with corbelled cap rises from the west gable end.

Extending to the rear is the service wing which was built in two stages. The earlier portion which predates the rest of the house comprises the first floor. Evidently when John W. Crisfield purchased this property he raised the existing building to a two-story height and expanded the structure to the south. Early nineteenth century features found on the first floor include raised six-panel doors, a brick-nogged frame and nine over six sash windows. In addition, the exterior weatherboards cover vertical plank siding that still retains fragments of whitewash. It appears the vertical planks had battens which were stripped when the weatherboards were attached. Exterior details for the second floor of the rear wing follow along similar lines as the front block with large scale six over six sash windows or smaller two over two sash windows. Corbelled brick chimneys rise from each gable end of the main service wing.

The interior of the main house is intact with a stair rising against the east wall. The staircase has a square newel post and two square balusters to each tread. The stair is divided into two flights to reach the second floor, but a door at the first landing allows access into the rear wing.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Edge Hill was the country residence of John W. Crisfield, one of the most important residents of Somerset County during the mid nineteenth century. As a prominent attorney, Crisfield helped to establish the railroad connection with Somer's Cove, later named Crisfield in the attorney's honor. When John W. Crisfield purchased the river property a single-story brick-nogged house evidently stood on the site. During Crisfield's ownership the house was enlarged in two ways. The front side hall/parlor section was attached, and the second floor of the service wing was raised. The mid nineteenth-century sections contain modest Victorian woodwork.

STORY AND SUPPORT

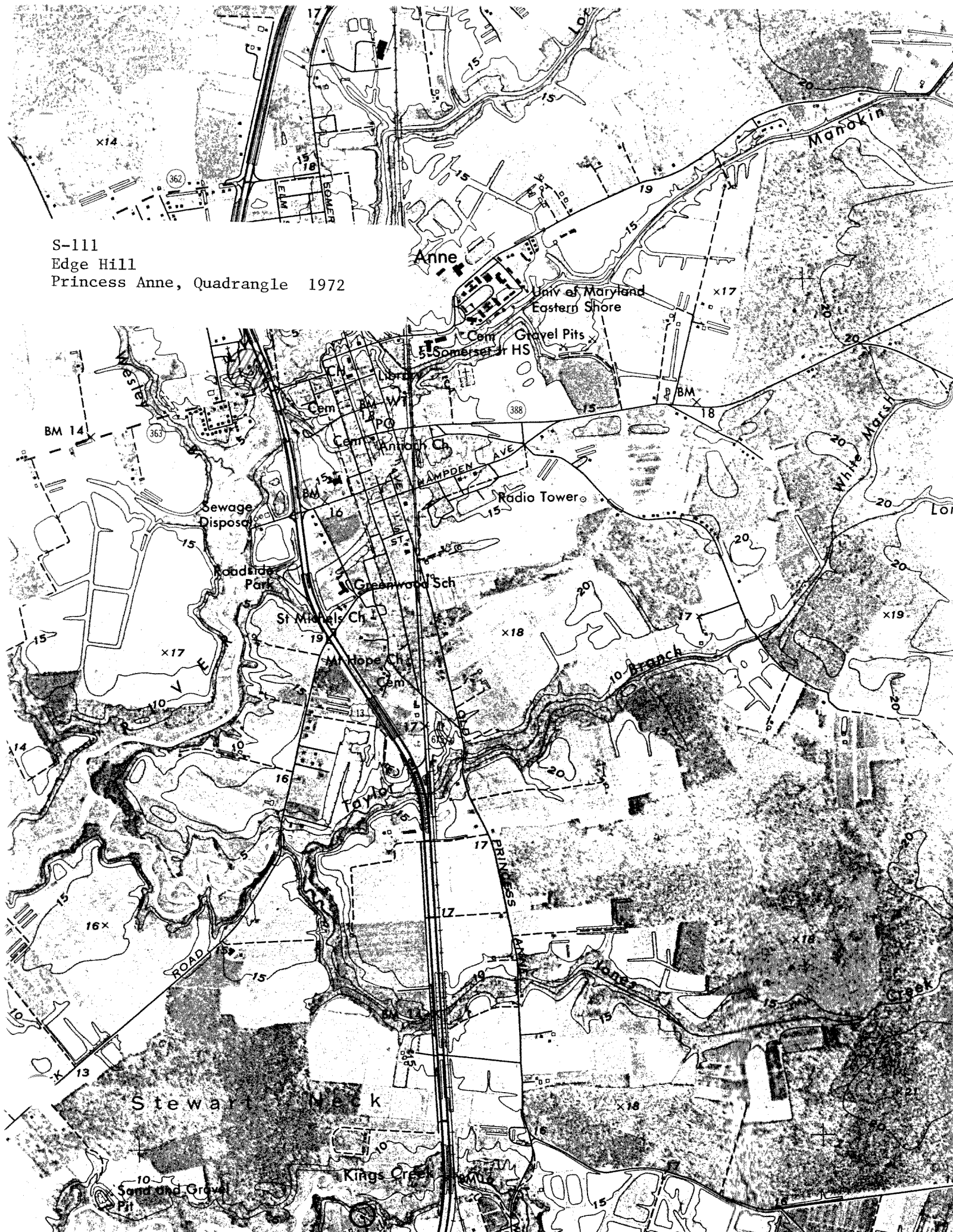
John W. Crisfield and his wife, Mary, acquired a part of "Hayward's Purchase" situated along a bend in the Manokin River through a chancery case in Somerset Court dated November of 1839 (GH/436). A covenant in the settlement stated that William Roach agreed to sell to John W. Crisfield the farm where Charles W. Harding now lives. After Crisfield purchased the river property he reworked the existing brick-nogged frame house by adding a second story and a two-story side hall/parlor front section. After John W. Crisfield's bankruptcy and eventual death, Mary W. Crisfield continued to occupy the Edge Hill house until the early twentieth century. In 1927, the Crisfield daughters sold twelve and a half acres and the house to Ralph and Martha Roush (GWL 94/357), who in turn sold the property to the First Baptist Church in 1960 (201/291). The Edge Hill house was burned in 1984.

The parlor is finished with lath and plaster walls, ogee molded baseboards and a Victorian mantel. The Victorian mantel has mass-produced ornament and a molded mantel shelf. The balance of mid nineteenth-century rooms are finished in a similar fashion. However, the back room, used as a kitchen, retains its early whitewash over the braced frame and brick-nogging. A large brick hearth with an arched opening dominates the north end wall. A garage door has been cut through the east wall for storage of a tractor. The balance of the early house is divided into two small rooms with flush six-panel doors. An enclosed back stair of mid nineteenth-century date is located in one room.

The brick-nogged frame dairy is a simple gable front weatherboarded structure with a door opening in the south side, and a louvered opening on the west side. The movable louvers allow control of air circulation. Inside, a coat of whitewash still covers the exposed brick and the framing members.

Surrounding the house are numerous shade trees including several old sycamores, cedars and evergreens. The yard gently slopes to the bank of the Manokin River south of the dwelling.

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Edge Hill
Princess Anne, Quadrangle 1972





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Edge Hill

Documentary Photograph c. 1900-1920

Photographer- Brown

Collection of W. Marshall Scott

Copied July 1984 Paul Touart

Neg/Md. Hist. Trust



Edge Hill (or)

S-111

John W. Crisfield House

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset County

South Elevation

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

neg / Md. Historical Trust



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John W. Crisfield House

South Elevation

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Edge Hill (or)

S-111

John W. Crisfield House

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset County

North Elevation

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Edge Hill (or)

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John W. Crisfield House

Brick Nogging

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset County

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Edge Hill (or)

S-111

John W. Crisfield House

Kitchen Hearth

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Edge Hill (or)

S-111

John W. Crisfield House

Kitchen Interior

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Edge Hill (or)

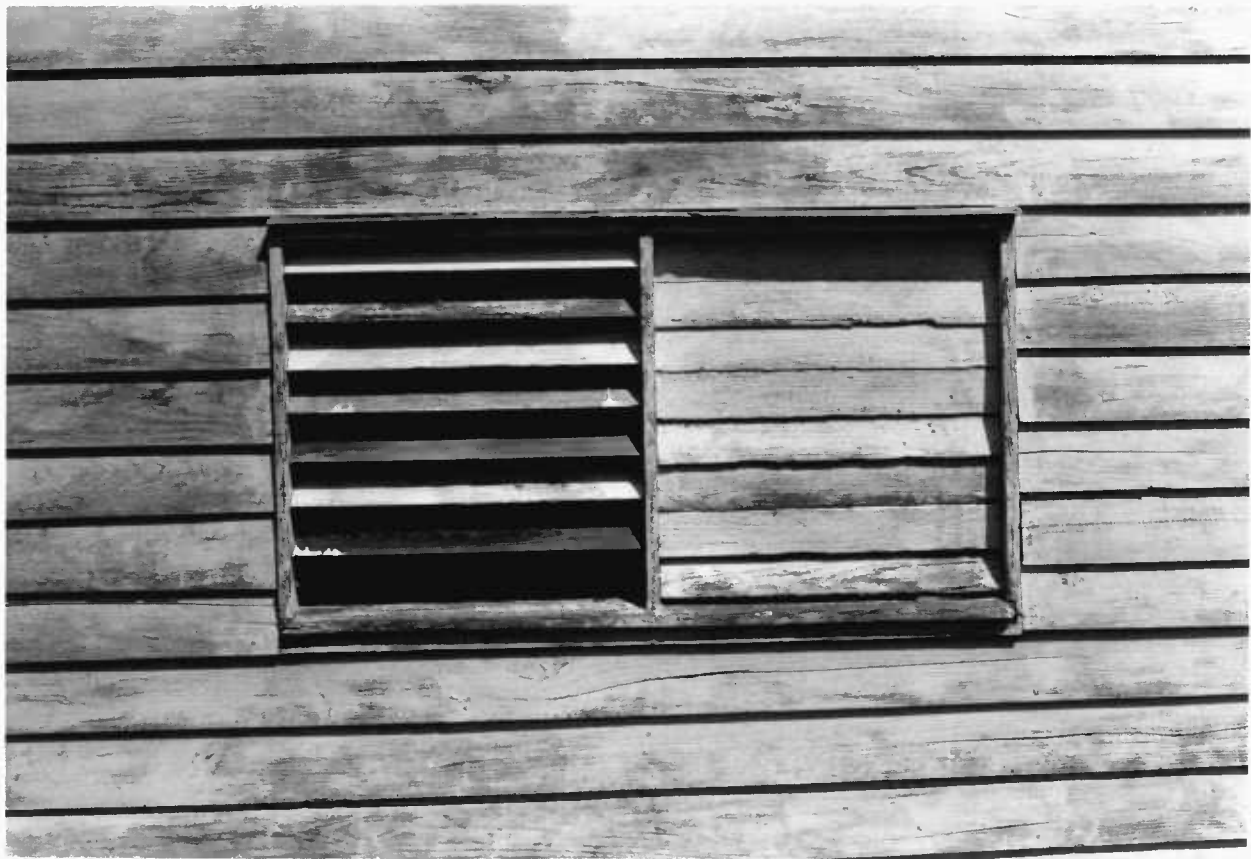
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John W. Crisfield House

Kitchen Nogging

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

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Edge Hill (or)

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John W. Crisfield House

Dairy Vent

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Edge Hill (or)

S-111

John W. Crisfield House

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset County

Dairy

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Edge Hill (or)

S-111

John W. Crisfield House

Brick Nogging on North Wall

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Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Edge Hill (or)

S-111

John W. Crisfield House

Six-Panel door to kitchen

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Edge Hill (or)

S-111

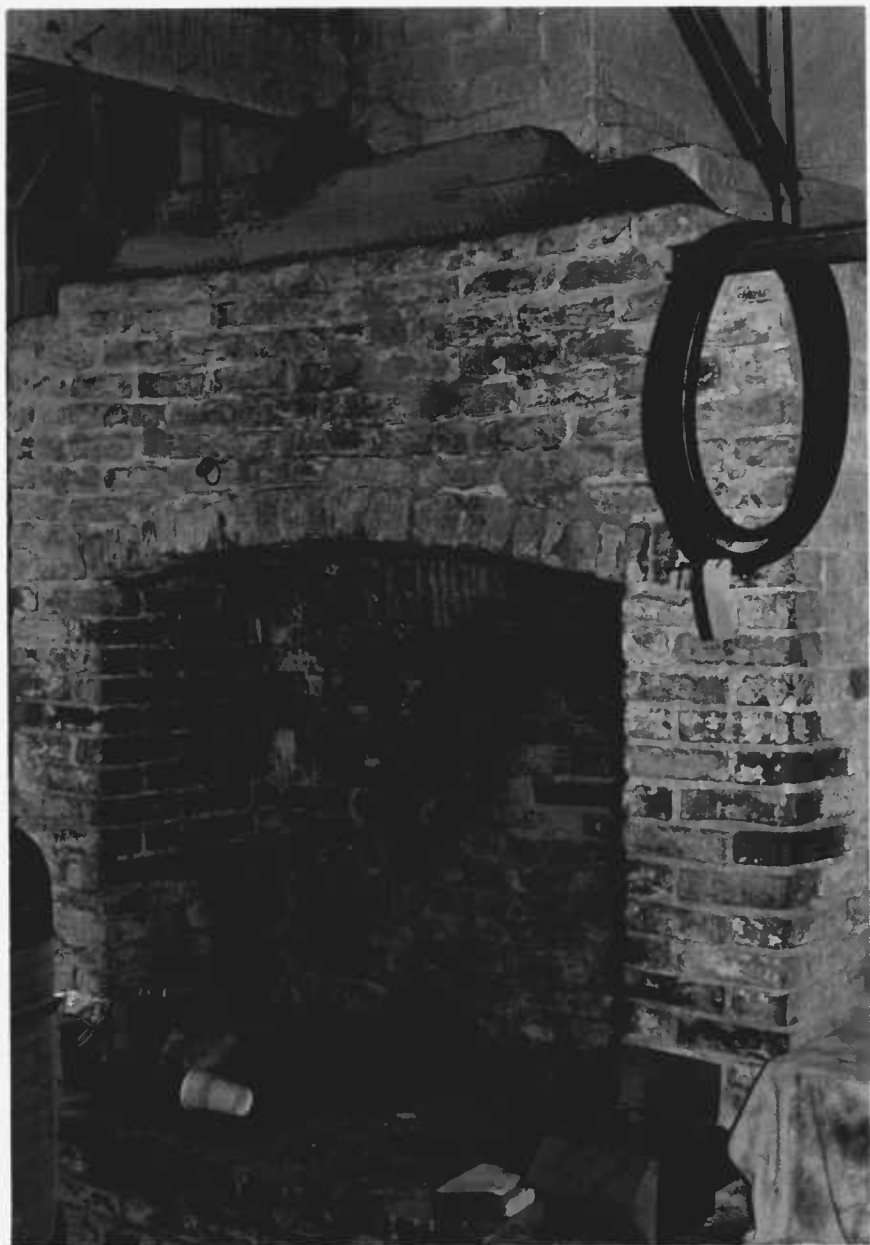
John W. Crisfield House

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset County

Front Door

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John W. Crisfield House

Kitchen Hearth

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Edge Hill (or)

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John W. Crisfield

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset County

Victorian Mantel

3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust